

HB 564 -- Crimes Against Animals

Sponsor: McGaugh

Currently, a person is guilty of animal neglect when he has custody, ownership, or both of an animal and fails to provide adequate care or adequate control which results in substantial harm to the animal. This bill specifies that a person will be guilty of animal neglect if he has custody, ownership, or both and fails to provide adequate care.

The bill specifies that a person is guilty of animal trespass if a person having ownership or custody of an animal knowingly fails to provide adequate control. The first conviction for animal trespass is an infraction and punishable by a fine of up to \$200. A second or subsequent conviction is a class C misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, a fine of up to \$500, or both. The court may waive all fines for the first conviction if the person found guilty of animal trespass shows that adequate, permanent remedies for trespass have been made. Reasonable costs incurred for the care and maintenance of trespassing animals may not be waived.

Currently, a person is guilty of animal abuse when the person having ownership or custody of an animal knowingly fails to provide adequate care or adequate control. The bill specifies that a person is guilty of animal abuse if a person having ownership or custody of an animal knowingly fails to provide adequate control which results in substantial harm to the animal.

The term "custody" as it is used in these provisions must apply only to an agent or employee of the owner who is in possession of the animal.